

FURTHER IDENTIFICATIONS OF SOURCES OF OBSIDIAN FLAKES FROM N38/37 ON MOTUTAPU ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND

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Further identifications of the sources of obsidian flakes found in the Motutapu undefended site N38/37 have been made. The results are described by Ward (this volume).

Site N38/37 was excavated in 1967-68 and has been previously described (Davidson 1970). Obsidian found in the site was initially sorted according to whether it was "grey" or "green" and the distribution within the site discussed according to these categories (1970, pp. 47, 53). The "green" was assumed to be from Mayor Island. More recently, obsidian from this and two other Motutapu sites was analysed by Dr R. Reeves of Massey University (Davidson 1972, Appendix 1). Only two of the flakes studied by Reeves were from N38/37; one was found to be from Mayor Island and the other from Great Barrier Island.

Only "grey" pieces were submitted to Ward. The expectation that most or all would prove to be from Great Barrier Island has been confirmed. It is of particular interest, however, that the Huruiki source is represented by three specimens, and that two separate sources on Great Barrier Island are distinguished.

I argued previously (1972, p. 7) that Huruiki obsidian may have been present only during the earlier phases of occupation on Motutapu, since it was then known only from the Sunde site (N38/24). Ward's analysis, however, shows it to have been present also in the later N38/37 site, although only in small quantity. It is obvious that the routes by which obsidian reached Motutapu were complex, since in each of the three small sites so far considered, obsidian from at least three different sources is present.

The other point of interest arising from the analysis of the obsidian from N38/37 is the distribution of material from the different sources within the site. Most of the obsidian came from layers A and B, so there is little scope for a diachronic analysis. The interest lies rather in the horizontal distribution in different parts of the site.

The obsidian studied by Ward came from the three main areas of concentration in the site: the terrace on the northern slope (squares N-8 and O-8); the area immediately above (M-8, M-9), which included structure B; and square J-11 on the south-eastern slope. The material from the Te Ahumata source (Ward's 1), which predominates in the site, was also most common in all three areas. The material from the other sources, however, was widely distributed, with one piece from Huruiki (Ward's 2) in each of the three areas, and the Awana material represented by three

pieces from the northern terrace and one from square M-9. This tends to confirm the pattern already apparent in the distribution of "grey" and "green" flakes, that material from a particular source does not cluster in a particular part of the site, or around a particular structure.

REFERENCES

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